

H. O. HIBBARD.

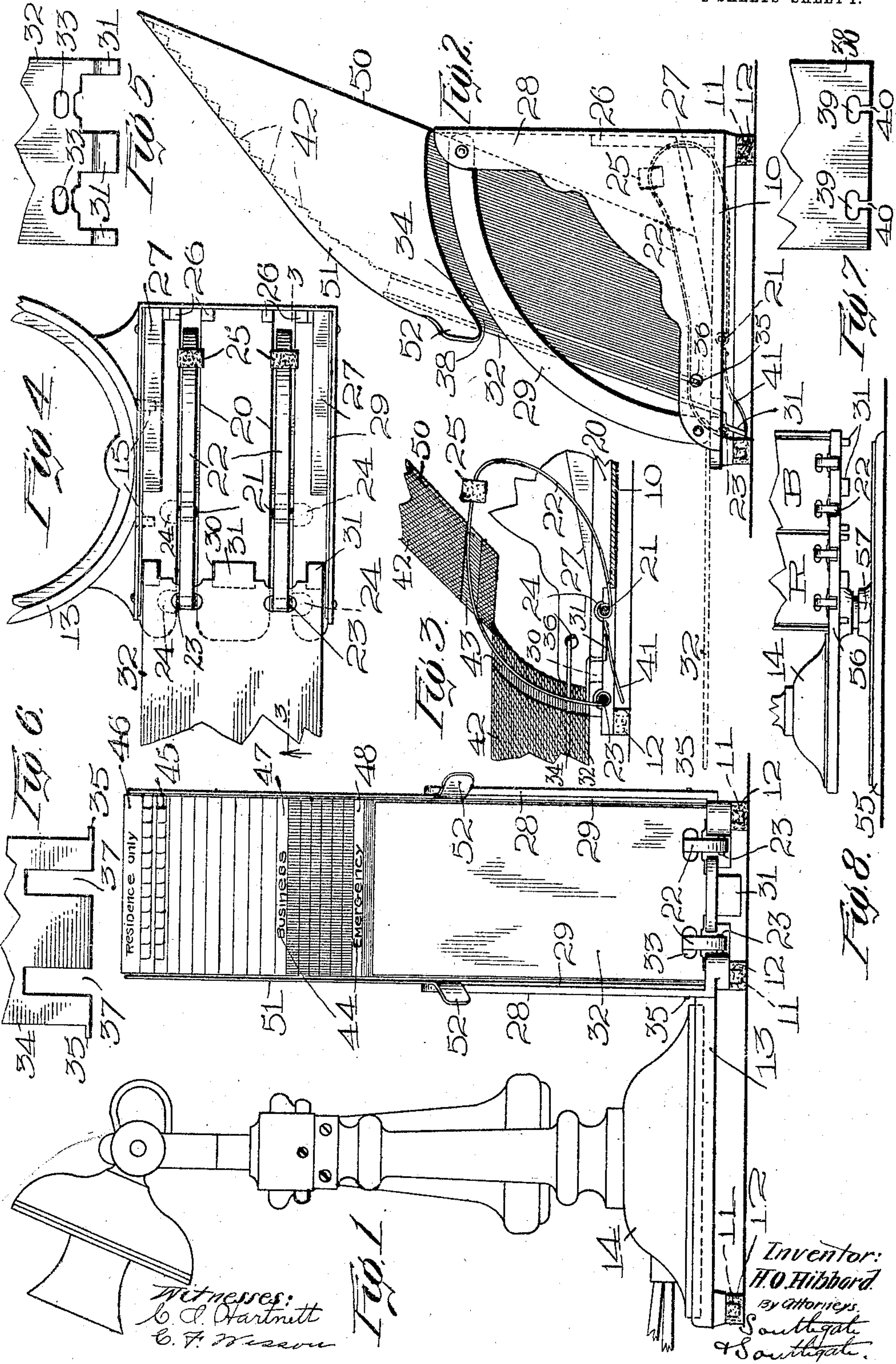
INDEX AND FILE.

APPLICATION FILED JAN. 29, 1910.

985,172.

Patented Feb. 28, 1911.

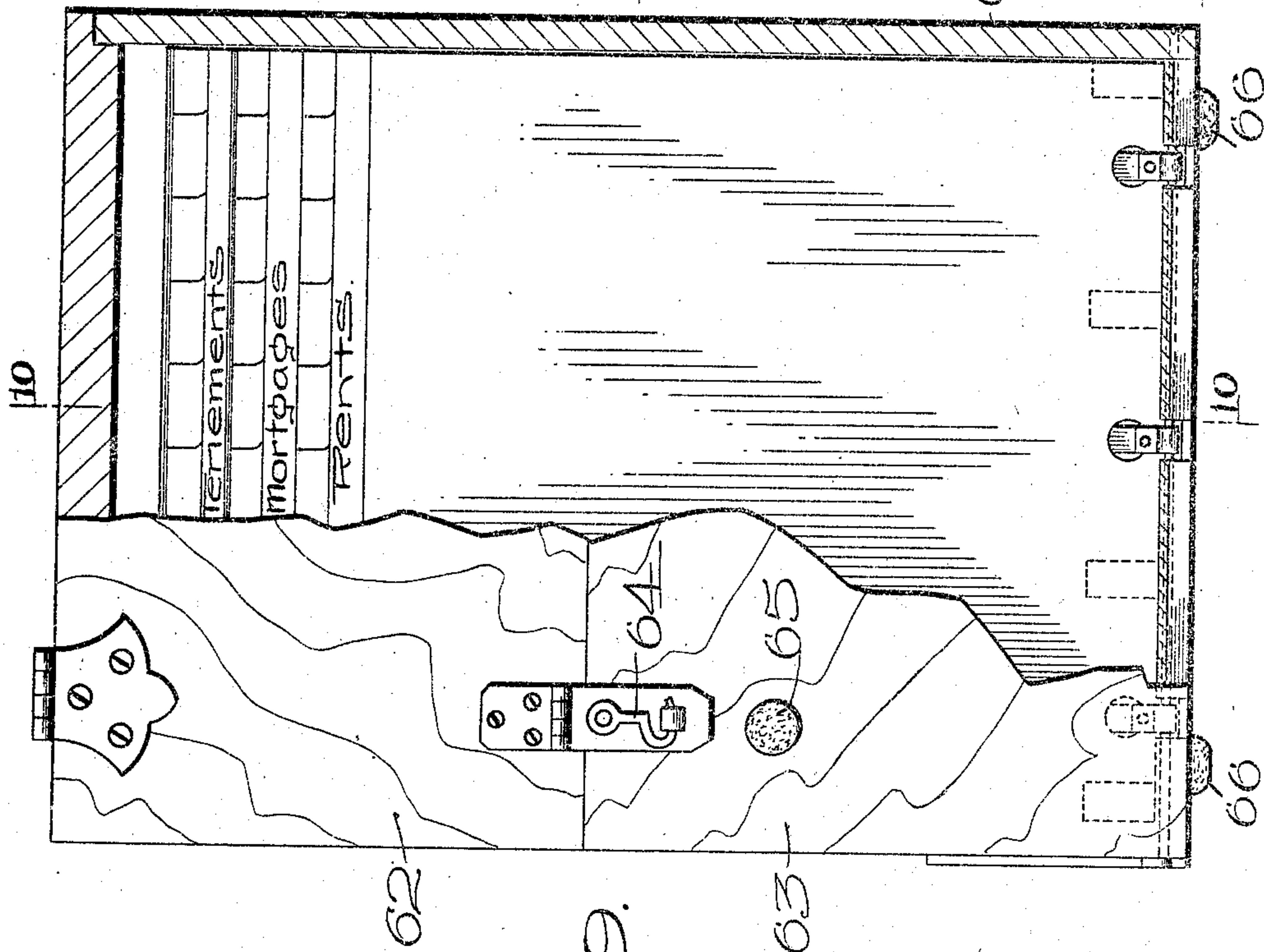
2 SHEETS—SHEET 1.



985,172.

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2 SHEETS—SHEET 2.



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INDEX AND FILE.

985,172.

Specification of Letters Patent.

Patented Feb. 28, 1911.

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To all whom it may concern:

Be it known that I, HERBERT O. HIBBARD, a citizen of the United States, residing at Worcester, in the county of Worcester and State of Massachusetts, have invented a new and useful Index and File, of which the following is a specification.

This invention relates to an index capable of use as such alone or as a file or cabinet.

10 The principal objects of the invention are to provide a construction capable of use for the purpose stated in which by an exceedingly simple and inexpensive construction the bottoms of the cards, tablets or the like 15 which are used for the index or separating members of the file cabinet will always be raised so that the front one that is standing up will be always in sight from top to bottom; to provide means whereby the leaves 20 or cards, when the device is open, will be supported by the devices which hold them in a frame or case; to provide means whereby when the index or file is entirely closed the parts thereof will be supported independently of the said holding device so that no 25 strain will be brought upon it; to provide an improved form of construction of the case or cabinet so that the leaves or cards turned down will remain in horizontal position and be firmly held there without introducing the necessity of adding to the bulk of the cabinet when the parts are close together; to provide a form of index either for 30 use as a telephone index or as a file index in which the several sections are separated by different colored leaves or cards so that for example, the residence portion of a telephone index will be entirely separate from the business portion.

40 Further objects and advantages of the invention will appear hereinafter.

Reference is to be had to the accompanying drawings in which—

Figure 1 is a front elevation of a device 45 constructed in accordance with this invention showing it connected with a telephone stand and adapted to serve as a telephone index. Fig. 2 is a side elevation of the same. Fig. 3 is a longitudinal sectional view of the 50 same showing the parts of the index open. Fig. 4 is a plan of a portion of the same with the index cards removed. Fig. 5 is an elevation of the lower end of the front plate.

Fig. 6 is an elevation of the lower end of the second plate. Fig. 7 is an elevation of the 55 lower end of a tablet adapted to be inserted between the first and second plates. Fig. 8 is a front elevation of the lower portion of a device of similar character showing the residence and business portions of the index separated still more fully. Fig. 9 is a front elevation of a filing cabinet constructed in accordance with this invention in a modified form, and Fig. 10 is a sectional view of the 60 same on the line 10—10 of Fig. 9.

The invention is shown as applied to a form in which a support or case 10 is provided with downwardly projecting integral pins 11 having rubber feet 12 thereon. These rubber feet consist of small tubular pieces 70 fitted over the pins and projecting below them. This case is provided at one side with a telephone support 13 having a shape suitable for supporting a telephone base 14. This support 13 is provided with pins 15 by which 75 it is adapted to be removably mounted on the base 10 and it is also provided with pins 11 and feet 12 as above described.

The bottom of the support or case 10 is provided with one or more longitudinal 80 slots 20 extending through the bottom at the front, but only part way through at the rear. On pivot pins 21 are pivotally mounted the eye ends of flexible supporting members, shown as springs 22. These supports 85 extend backwardly from these pins substantially to the back of the case and then are bent down and extend forwardly. At the front ends of their lower strands they have eyes which engage over pins 23. The pins 90 21 and 23 extend almost across the slots preferably from opposite sides and opposite them are cavities 24 on the under side of the case through which the eye ends of the flexible supporting members or springs can 95 be slipped in removing and replacing them. It will be noted that the slots 20 form a depressed guide to the back of the case for the springs. At points at the rear of the upper strands of the springs they are provided 100 with stops 25 of any desired construction, but shown on the first sheet as consisting of rubber tubes fitting the springs tight enough so as to remain in one position thereon.

The back of the case is provided with 105 vertical guides 26 for receiving the ends of

the springs. Located along the sides of the base are inclined rigid supports 27, the purpose of which will be described hereinafter. The case is shown as having upwardly extending corners 28 at the rear connected with the bottom by arcuate arms 29, thus providing guides for the index leaves or tablets and strengthening the casing. At the front of the case are provided perforations 30 through which extend angular arms 31 on a front plate 32. These arms bear on a spring 41 when the plate is upright, which holds the plate in place. The plate preferably is of metal and stiff enough to form a shelf to hold the cards of the device in horizontal position. When it is extended forward or downward, as shown in dotted lines in Fig. 2, the arms 31 engage the under side of the floor of the case and hold this plate in horizontal position where it serves as a supporting shelf. This plate has perforations 33 through which the springs pass. Behind this plate is another plate 34, preferably of metal, which is provided with a pair of outwardly projecting pins 35 extending into slots 36 in the side wall of the case. These slots being elongated, the plate can be inserted very readily. This plate also has notches 37 for the springs. Between these two plates a tablet 38 is adapted to be placed having perforations 39 through the bottom and consisting of a plurality of sheets of paper connected in any desired way. At the bottom of the perforations 39 are notches 40 which extend through to the bottom of the tablet so that, as each sheet is used it can very easily be detached from the tablet and from the springs.

Back of the plate 34 are located the leaves, cards or sheets 42, which form the separating members for the file, or the index members for the index. Each of these is provided with perforations 43 corresponding with the number of springs employed. At the top, these cards or leaves are provided with designations as 44 indicating the character of the papers to be filed in front of them, or of the entries made, or printed matter appearing upon them. They are cut away at the top to provide spaces 45 for the letters or numbers into which each series is divided.

It is to be observed that both the fronts and backs of the leaves or cards can be used for the index or for the entry of data because by reference to Fig. 3 it will be seen that the angle between the fronts of the upper cards and the rears of the lower ones is not great and one can read continuously from one to the other. This index is divided into sections, each section having a contrasting color or appearance so they can be distinguished readily by a party using the device. By dividing the index up as indicated in Fig. 1, into a residence section 46, a busi-

ness section 47, and an additional section 48 preferably for emergency or frequent calls; the time expended in using the index is very much reduced and its value very highly increased. This is an important feature.

At the rear of the index leaves is a plate 50 strung on the springs in the same way as the other parts and bearing against the rear parts of the corner pieces 28 at the top. This plate is provided with forwardly extending side flanges 51 which have outwardly extending ears 52 at the lower front corners. This construction provides for holding the leaves or cards accurately in position and the outwardly flanged corners prevent their catching or going to one side when carelessly thrown back into the case. The bottoms of these side flanges are located near the strips 29 so that the support for the sides of the cards or leaves is substantially continuous.

The object of the slanting supports 27 will be readily seen when it is stated that they carry the bottoms of the leaves and of the plate 50 when placed together in the case, as shown in Fig. 2, thus relieving the springs of all weight except while the device is in use, which is only a small part of the time. The object of the pins 35 and slots 36 will also be clear when attention is called to the fact that these serve as stops to prevent the bottoms of the cards or leaves from going too far forward when the leaves are closed in the case. The stops 25 also are employed to prevent any possibility of the back plate or any of the leaves getting over on the lower strands of the springs.

In the form of the invention shown in Fig. 8, a base 55 is employed on which is a case 56 pivotally mounted by a pivot 57 so as to be free to turn in all positions. In this case the business index B is entirely separate from the residence index R, otherwise the construction is substantially the same.

In the form of the invention shown in Figs. 9 and 10, it is applied to a filing cabinet 60. This cabinet is shown as provided with a hinged top member 61 to which is hinged a front plate 62 which depends from the top. Another hinged front plate 63 is connected with the plate 62 by a hasp 64 or in any desired way. The plate 63 is provided with rubber feet 65 of the same length as the feet 66 on the bottom of the cabinet. In this case three springs are shown of the same character as those shown in the other figures. The other elements illustrated in these figures will be readily understood from what has been described above. Either in this case or in the other, the leaves can be employed as separating members for the filing cabinet in a very simple manner because they can be made so as not to take up the entire length of the

springs. Even in the form shown on the first sheet, almost a quarter of the space occupied by the leaves is available for the insertion of loose sheets; but in the form shown
5 in the second sheet of drawings, a great deal more of space is available for that purpose.

While I have illustrated and described certain preferred embodiments of the invention I am aware that many modifications
10 can be made therein by any person skilled in the art without departing from the scope of the invention as expressed in the claims. Therefore, I do not wish to be limited to
15 the details of construction shown and described, but

What I do claim is:—

1. In a device of the character described, the combination with a plurality of leaves
20 or sheets, of means for holding the same whereby the sheets can be swung from an upright to a horizontal position; and means whereby the bottoms of the rear sheets or
30 leaves are moved up as the front ones are turned down, to the level of the top horizontal leaf or sheet.

2. In a device of the character described, the combination of a plurality of upright leaves or sheets, means for permitting said
30 leaves or sheets to be turned down in front and for holding them upright at the rear and means for raising the rear sheets as the front ones are turned down, whereby the bottom
35 of the front upright sheet is always visible from the front.

3. In a device of the character described, the combination of a series of sheets or leaves, means for holding them in upright
40 position and permitting them to be turned down in front to horizontal position and means for keeping the bottoms of the upright sheets substantially on the level with the top sheet turned down at the front.

4. In a device of the character described,
45 the combination of a support, flexible members connected with said support at the front and extending backwardly therein, a series of sheets or leaves having perforations through which said flexible members pass,
50 whereby they support the sheets or leaves, and raise the sheets or leaves at the rear so as to expose the lower portions thereof, as the front ones are turned down to horizontal position.

5. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible members connected with the support at the front
55 thereof and extending upwardly and rearwardly to a point near the back of the support and then downwardly and forwardly, their ends being connected with the bottom of the support, a series of sheets or leaves having perforations near the bottoms thereof through which said flexible members pass.

6. In a device of the character described,

the combination of a support, flexible members connected with the support, at the front thereof and extending rearwardly to a point near the back of the support, a series of
70 sheets or leaves having perforations near the bottom thereof through which said flexible members pass, said support having a back extending upwardly and provided with rear walls for supporting the upper parts of
75 said sheets or leaves.

7. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible members connected with the support at the front thereof and extending rearwardly to a point
80 near the back of the support, a series of sheets or leaves having perforations near the bottom thereof through which said flexible members pass to support the sheets or leaves, said support having raised surfaces
85 for supporting the bottoms of said sheets or leaves independently of the flexible members when the sheets or leaves are moved back into the support.

8. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible members connected with the support at the front
90 thereof and extending rearwardly therein, a series of sheets or leaves having perforations near the bottom thereof for said flexible members, and stops on said flexible members located at the rear of the support.

9. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, a plurality of flat members having eyes at each end,
100 pins on said support for receiving said eyes, said flat members extending from the front pins back in the support and down to the rear pins, and leaves or cards arranged on said supports.

10. In a device of the character described,
105 the combination of a support, a plurality of flexible members having eyes at each end, pins on said support for receiving said eyes, said flexible members extending from the front pins back in the support and down to
110 the rear pins, and leaves or cards arranged on said support, said support having notches or depressions at the ends of said pins for permitting the eyes to be removed.

11. In a device of the character described,
115 the combination of a support having longitudinal slots therein, said slots extending through the bottom of the support at the front and part way through at the rear, flexible springs connected with said support
120 at their ends at points near the front portions of said slots, and cards or leaves arranged on said springs.

12. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible springs
125 connected with said support at their ends at points near the front thereof, cards or leaves arranged on said springs, the side walls of said support having slots there-through and a rigid plate having projec- 130

tions entering the last named slots and pivoted therein in front of said cards or leaves, and having notches for receiving the springs.

13. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible springs connected with said support at their ends, cards or leaves arranged on said springs, the bottom of said support having perforations therethrough at the front, and a rigid plate provided with angular projections extending through said perforations and adapted to be swung down at the front and supported by said projections in horizontal position so as to constitute a shelf for receiving the cards or leaves.

14. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible springs connected with said support at their ends, cards or leaves arranged on said springs, a pivoted front plate adapted to be moved down in front to serve as a shelf for the leaves or cards, a pivoted plate in front of the leaves or cards, and a tablet between said plates having perforations therethrough for the springs and notches extending from the perforations to the bottoms of the sheets thereof, whereby said sheets can be removed from the springs.

15. In a device of the character described, the combination of a support, flexible springs connected with said support, cards or leaves arranged on said springs, and a tablet having perforations therethrough for the springs and notches extending from the perforations to the bottoms of the sheets thereof, whereby said sheets can be removed from the springs.

16. As an article of manufacture, an index consisting of leaves or sheets having headings, and arranged in groups, those of each group being located at the same height and the headings of each group being above the tops of the leaves or sheets of the next group in front, a portion of the groups being arranged continuously and of one color containing the whole of the index relating to one subject matter, and another portion arranged below the same, continuously, and of another color containing the whole of the index relating to another subject matter.

17. The combination of a support having perforations at the front, cards or leaves arranged in said support, a plate having angular projections through said perforations, and a spring for engaging said projections to yieldingly hold the plate in position.

18. As an article of manufacture, an index comprising leaves or sheets having headings and arranged in groups, those of each group being located at the same height and the headings of each group being above the tops of the leaves or sheets of the next group in

front, whereby said headings will be visible at all times, the headings of the sheets of each group comprising the same letter, sign or word at the right of each leaf or sheet of that group, a second letter, sign, or word located just at the left of the first one on all of the leaves or sheets of the group except the front one, and a total number of letters, signs or words on each other leaf or sheet equal to the number of that sheet counting from the front of the group, each leaf or sheet being cut away on a horizontal line at the left of the letters, signs or words so as at all times to expose a single letter, sign or word of each leaf or sheet behind the front one when one or more of the leaves or sheets are turned down.

19. In an index, the combination of a plurality of normally upright leaves or sheets, means for holding the sheets together, said sheets being pivotally mounted thereon, whereby they are capable of being turned down in front, and means for holding the bottoms of the rear sheets at substantially the level of the top sheet that is turned down, each leaf or sheet having printed matter on the front thereof located right side up when they are in normal upright position, and also having printed matter on the back arranged bottom side up when they are in their normal upright position and forming a continuation of the reading matter on the front of the next sheet or leaf at the rear, whereby when a sheet or leaf is turned down, two pages of continuous reading matter are exposed with the top of the front one at substantially the same level as the bottom of the next rear one.

20. In a device of the character described, the combination with a plurality of leaves or sheets, of means for holding the same whereby the sheets can be swung from an upright to a horizontal position, and means whereby the bottoms of the rear sheets or leaves are moved up as the front ones are turned down, to the level of the top horizontal leaf or sheet, said sheets or leaves having reading matter on the front and rear, that on the rear being wrong side up when the sheets are upright, whereby when any of the sheets are tipped down, the reading matter on the front of the rear one and the rear of the top one of those turned down will be continuous.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand, in the presence of two subscribing witnesses.

HERBERT O. HIBBARD.

Witnesses:

C. FORREST WESSON,
E. M. ALLEN.